

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

System and methods for chaining the translation of data file formats by linking programs that convert datafiles between formats. A user submits a request to a controller program to convert a datafile from one format into another. The controller accesses a registry database to determine what translation programs ("translators") are available, and designs a translation process linking the individual translators to perform the conversion. The translation job is controlled by job specification commands, preferably provided to each translator as a URL in HTTP protocol, that instruct each translator to access its data from the prior link in the translation chain. Format conversion occurs as the translators communicate directly with each other, passing the data down the chain. The process is especially suited for converting datafiles in unsupported formats into supported formats for printing.